

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2211

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1433

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT KS US JA

SUBJ: SPEAKER CHUNG IL-KWON'S VISIT TO JAPAN

SUMMARY: SPEAKER CHUNG IL-KWON HAD REASSURING MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA AND MET LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONSERVATIVES DURING TOKYO VISIT FEBRUARY 9-11. FUKUDA DESCRIBED VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT, INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND EXPLAINED HIS POLITICAL PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY AS RELATING TO KOREA. HE REAFFIRMED HIS FULL SUPPORT FOR ROK, AS DID KISHI, FUNADA AND OTHER CONSERVATIVE LEADERS. AFTER RECEIVING REPORT FROM CHUNG, PRESIDENT PARK STILL SUSPICIOUS REGARDING "SECRET" TALKS BETWEEN US AND GOJ ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL. ON INTERNAL SITUATION, CHUNG EXPECTS LITTLE LENIENCY TO OPPOSITION UNTIL AFTER 1978 ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. I MET WITH SPEAKER CHUNG IL-KWON TODAY, FEBRUARY 18, TO REVIEW HIS RECENT TRIP TO AFRICA AND JAPAN. HE HAD LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT AFRICAN POSITION BUT MUCH ON TOKYO VISIT. HE MET IN TOKYO WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA AND THEN LATER WITH LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONSERVATIVE GROUP, INCLUDING FORMER PRIMIN KISHI, FUNADA AND KAYA.

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2. MEETING WITH FUKUDA WAS WARM AND FRIENDLY WITH FULL REASSURANCES OF SUPPORT FOR ROK, AS WAS CASE FOR LATER MEETING WITH CONSERVATIVES. FUKUDA GAVE HIM REPORT ON VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, EMPHASIZING THAT BULK OF CONVERSATIONS DEALT WITH ECONOMIC MATTERS. FUKUDA SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED MONDALE ABOUT TROOP REDUCTION AND POINTED OUT THAT, WHILE PUBLICLY HE MUST TAKE STANCE THIS IS

BILATERAL US-ROK ISSUE, JAPAN IS CONCERNED THAT TROOP WITHDRAWAL NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT SECURITY OF AREA AND QUICK MOVES NOT HURT STABILITY OF KOREA. FUKUDA ASSURED CHUNG THAT DETAILS WERE NOT DISCUSSED WITH JAPANESE AND CHUNG CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS IN FACT NOTHING NEW TO KOREANS IN MONDALE CONVERSATIONS.

3. FUKUDA EXPLAINED TO CHUNG THAT HE MUST BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL REGARDING WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT KOREA DUE TO PROBLEMS OF DIET MANAGEMENT AND LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY SERIOUS CONCERNS REGARDING UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS EARLY THIS SUMMER. HE REALIZED AS RESULT HE MAY MAKE STATEMENTS IN DIET ON TOKTO ISLANDS AND NORTH KOREA WHICH KOREANS WOULD NOT LIKE, BUT HE URGED THAT THEY NOT TAKE THESE STATEMENTS SERIOUSLY SINCE THEY DO NOT REFLECT HIS TRUE FEELINGS. REGARDING RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA, FUKUDA POINTED OUT THAT A PRO-NORTH KOREA GROUP UNDER KUNO IN LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MAKES HIS PROBLEMS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT.

4. NEVERTHELESS, FUKUDA ASSURED CHUNG THAT HE PERSONALLY IS A TRUE FRIEND OF KOREA IN WHOM KOREANS COULD HAVE CONFIDENCE. FOR HIM, KOREA'S SECURITY IS LIKE JAPAN'S AND THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE. FUKUDA PROMISED HE WOULD COME TO KOREA'S AID ECONOMICALLY AND OTHERWISE WHEN NECESSARY, ALTHOUGH HE MUST PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY AT PRESENT DUE TO THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS. FUKUDA ALSO COMPLAINED THAT RANARD STATEMENTS ALLEGING BRIBERY BETWEEN KOREA AND JAPAN HAD FURTHER COMPLICATED HIS PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH RANARD HAD PRODUCED NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT HIS CHARGES.

5. CHUNG REPORTED HIS CONVERSATIONS IN JAPAN TO PRESIDENT PARK  
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SHORTLY AFTER HE RETURNED. HE FOUND PARK VERY MUCH INTERESTED AND QUESTIONING HIM CLOSELY. PARK EVIDENCED, HOWEVER, SUSPICION THAT THERE WERE "SECRET" US-JAPAN TALKS ON DETAILS OF TROOP REDUCTION DURING VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT. CHUNG TRIED TO REASSURE PRESIDENT PARK, BUT HE FEELS SUSPICIONS LINGER. PARK ALSO COMPLAINED THAT FUKUDA HAD APPARENTLY SHIFTED HIS POSITION ON KOREA; AFTER FIRST EXPRESSING CONCERNS PUBLICLY ABOUT TROOP WITHDRAWAL HE THEN SAID IT WAS ONLY A BILATERAL ISSUE BETWEEN US AND KOREA. CHUNG TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO PARK POLITICAL FACTS OF LIFE IN JAPAN AND FUKUDA'S DILEMMA ON THIS ISSUE. HOWEVER HE FINDS PRESIDENT PARK STILL TENDS TO THINK OF JAPANESE POLITICS IN STRICTLY KOREAN TERMS.

6. DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK, QUESTION OF KANG MUN-PONG FUTURE CAME UP. CHUNG SAID THAT PARK STRONGLY HINTED HE WOULD GIVE CLEMENCY TO KANG SOMETIME AFTER LEGAL ACTIONS CONCLUDED, DESPITE SEVERITY OF SENTENCE (EMBTel 1348). CHUNG EXPLAINED THAT HE SUSPECTS KCIA PRESSED FOR TOUGH SENTENCE

DUE TO KANG'S ACTIONS IN 1950'S AGAINST KCIA.

7. WHEN I DISCUSSED HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WITH CHUNG, HE  
COMMENTED THAT HE ANTICIPATED NO LENIENCY ON THE PART OF PRESI-  
DENT PARK TOWARD KIM DAE JUNG UNTIL AFTER 1978 ELECTIONS.  
UNTIL THAT TIME HE EXPECTED THAT PARK WOULD BROOK NO RIVALS  
EITHER OUTSIDE OR INSIDE THE PARTY AND WOULD CONTINUE PARTI-  
CULARLY TO PUT DOWN BOTH HIMSELF AND KIM CHONG-P'IL.  
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## Message Attributes

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